

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

Abstract of the Disclosure

~~The invention relates to a A method and an apparatus for automated application of paint film to bodywork parts (1) and to a paint film composite (5) which is suitable for automation. For this purpose, a A paint film composite (5) which is suitable for automation is created first of all. This can be and adhesively bonded onto the bodywork part (1) in an accurate position and without any bubbles or creases by means of a robot-controlled application tool that is appropriate for this purpose. In order to To securely hold the film composite (5), which has been picked up from a substrate, the suction grippers (30, 31) which grip the ends are angled in mirror-image form, in order in this way to prevent the ends from becoming detached from the suction grippers. The lower protective strip (9), which is gripped by a moving gripping tool on a pulling off lug which projects at the end, is then at least partially pulled off, thus exposing the adhesive face of the useful part (6) of the paint film. The film composite (5), which is held stretched out, is aligned in the correct orientation at a short distance from the bodywork part (1) which is to be bonded to and is held inflexibly, and the useful part (6) of the paint film is wiped onto the bodywork surface (1) from the separated position by means of a moving wiper (90, 91). The outer protective strip (8), which is still held firmly by the suction grippers (30, 31) is then pulled off the applied paint film.~~

(Figure 6)